

Groundwater Advisory Committee (GAC)
Meeting Minutes: June 1, 2006 10:00 – 1:40
DNR GEF 2 Conference Room G09
101 South Webster, Madison

Committee Members in attendance: DuWayne Johnsrud, Ron Kuehn, Lawrie Kobza, Andrew Graham, Todd Ambs, Mike Carter, Robert Nauta, Dan Duchniak, Stuart Gross, Carol McCartney, Jodi Habush Sinykin.

Welcome and Introductions: Chair Ron Kuehn welcomed everyone. Jill Jonas introduced Kathy Mooney as Information Technology staff hired for Act 310 implementation.

Agenda Repair: None noted.

Approval of the April 6, 2006 meeting minutes: The [April 6 minutes](#) were approved as posted.

Waukesha Conservation Initiatives: Dan Duchniak and Nancy Quirk presented water supply alternatives for the City of Waukesha and its [water conservation plan](#). Sinykin complimented the conservation plan but objected to using the GAC as a forum to justify Great Lakes water diversion. Ambs noted that a diversion exemption decision, which would be based on the surface water divide rather than groundwater divide, would be made by all states participating in the [Annex](#).

GMA Subcommittee Update: Kobza presented an updated [consensus table](#) (formerly referred to as Attachment A) for discussion. Designation of a GMA and required planning were the primary topics of discussion at subcommittee meetings on May 11 and May 31. The GMA subcommittee reached consensus on items 9 and 10 at the May 11 meeting and now ask for a vote of the entire committee. The two items specify that groundwater management plans must include both a monitoring component and a process for adaptive management. Because the language is new to some members, the official vote will take place at the next meeting. After discussion that the neither the amount of monitoring nor the source of funding is specified in item 9 and that adaptive management means continued evaluation and adjustment of plans, the committee reached consensus on the language in items 9 and 10.

The new concept of an “area of concern” as a preliminary step to designation as a GMA, invoked much discussion. A [memo from researchers](#) in response to the [strawman GMA planning](#) regulations was shared. Because consensus was reached on item 13, that the state should encourage coordinated groundwater management plan to avoid or reduce future problems, the subcommittee will proceed with the concept of an intermediate step to GMA designation. A presentation about how to designate potential GMA areas such as Dane County, the Little Plover River watershed, and the St. Croix County area is requested for the next meeting.

McCartney provided a memo summarizing [enforcement of groundwater management](#) in Michigan and Minnesota. She noted that Michigan is developing a GIS-based tool for applicants to assess a well location prior to submittal. Bob Biebel shared the preliminary [table of contents](#) for a SEWRPC report on water supply practices and noted that flexibility is important in the planning process. DNR will forward examples of programs using best management practices.

Agenda items pertaining to screening criteria or funding options were not discussed.

GPA Subcommittee Update: Sinykin distributed a [GPA Task Framework](#). Kuehn indicated that he is researching other states' definitions of 'significant environmental impact' and will provide a report for the August meeting.

Springs Coordination Group Update: Ken Bradbury, WGNHS, explained that the group is a loose coalition of researchers and provided a [summary of ongoing projects](#). Staff will organize a springs field trip in conjunction with a future meeting. Jake Macholl, WWF, provided a [preliminary summary of springs data](#). Because existing data are quite old and little or no flow data is available, funding for a statewide springs survey will be addressed on a future agenda.

Funding for Statewide Well Network: McCartney presented [three options](#) for consideration. To avoid identifying a source of funding, the committee agreed that the following amended language will be included as part of the 2006 GMA report as well as the final report: "The Groundwater Advisory Committee recommends the legislature provide *a structure for* renewable funding for the long-term operation and maintenance of groundwater level and surface water level monitoring and data management systems throughout the state. The monitoring effort should consist of two elements; a base level monitoring system that covers the state, and targeted monitoring systems in existing or potential GMAs that are designed to support the specific needs and management objectives of the area. The targeted monitoring programs should be designed with substantial support and guidance from the GMA or potential GMA."

Minnesota and Wisconsin High Capacity Well Applications: George Mickelson, DNR, provided a comparison of the [review process](#) in the two states. He pointed out that there are fundamental differences between the two state's approaches including the fact that Minnesota statutes dictate priority water users during emergencies.

DNR Implementation Issues/Rule Writing Process: Mark Putra provided examples of applications to site high capacity wells within Groundwater Protection Areas and briefly outlined how the Drinking Water and Groundwater program has handled those projects. Larry Lynch provided a schedule for DNR rule writing and the [role of the GAC in the rule development](#). Drafting of NR 820 will begin soon and discrete portions will be shared with the GAC and subcommittees for comment as they become available. A draft of the entire proposed rule will be available for the August meeting.

Village of Richfield ordinance: Doug Cherkauer, UWM, presented how he believes a [Groundwater Protection Ordinance](#) could be used to enhance the planning process in a GMA. The Department's [March 31, 2006 letter](#) to the Town of Richfield notes that "The Wisconsin Supreme Court has ruled that issues involving water supply and the promotion and protection of public health are matters of statewide concern."

Chair Kuehn allowed a brief unscheduled [presentation](#) by Robert Burmeister who talked about the ramifications of a municipal high capacity well sited near Lake Beulah. Burmeister pointed out what he perceives as shortcomings of Act 310 in terms of ensuring protection of lakes.

Meeting Dates for 2007: The committee will continue to meet on the first Thursday of the month through 2007. The next GMA subcommittee conference call will be June 22, 2006. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the GAC is August 3, 2006 in DNR conference room G09.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 1:40 pm.